

## Message Text

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22  
ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-01 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 /110 R

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APPROVED BY: IO:DRTOUSSAINT

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TO ALEAP

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

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XMT AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

XMT AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

XMT AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN UNESCO  
EUROPEAN REGION

REF: STATE 224244

1. SUMMARY. ADDRESSEE POSTS REQUESTED TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND ASK THAT THEIR DELEGATIONS TO 19TH UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE (NAIROBI, OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 30, 1976) SUPPORT EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION THAT GENERAL CONFERENCE BASE ITS ASSIGNMENT OF MEMBER STATES TO GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS ON THE WISHES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE REGION CONCERNED, AND THAT WHEN THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN ADOPTED, THEIR DELEGATIONS SUPPORT THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS REGIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN 1974 THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) OF UNESCO REJECTED ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR ASSIGNMENT TO EUROPEAN REGION, LEAVING ISRAEL ONLY MEMBER THEN UNASSIGNED TO A REGIONAL GROUPING. (VOTE WAS 33-48 WITH 31 ABSTENTIONS AND 22 "ABSENT.") THIS POLITICALLY INSPIRED GESTURE WAS ONE OF GC'S ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIONS THAT TRIGGERED CONGRESSIONAL CUT-OFF OF U. S. PAYMENTS TO UNESCO. ALL MEMBERS VOTED ON ISRAEL, AS ON ALL REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS, WITH NO SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR VIEWS OF REGION CONCERNED. ANTI-ISRAEL VOTE WAS SPEARHEADED BY ARAB AND MOSLEM STATES AND SUPPORTED BY USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEANS, EXCEPT ROMANIA, WHICH WAS "ABSENT". (ASIAN VOTE ANALYZED PARA 5, BELOW.) IF GC HAD FOLLOWED TRADITION OF LEAVING A LARGEY REGIONAL MATTER TO REGIONAL GROUPING ITSELF, THE SUPPORT OF GREAT MAJORITY OF WESTERN MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN REGION (WHICH ALSO INCLUDES EASTERN EUROPE, U.S. AND CANADA) WOULD HAVE INSURED ISRAEL'S ADMISSION.

3. WITH 18TH GC ACTION IN MIND AND WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW'S STRONG SUPPORT, 40-MEMBER UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD  
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LAST FALL RECOMMENDED THAT 19TH GC, IN UPDATING REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS, BE GUIDED BY VIEWS OF MEMBERS OF RELEVANT REGION. (IN ADDITION TO ISRAEL, THREE NEW MEMBERS -- SURINAM, GRENADA AND SAN MARINO -- HAVE NOT YET BEEN ASSIGNED TO REGIONS.) VOTE IN BOARD WAS 25-3 (EE'S) - 3 ABSTENTIONS, WITH 9 (ARABS/MOSLEM, PLUS CHINA AND INDIA) COUNTED "ABSENT."

4. SUCCESS OF EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION AIMED AT GIVING  
MEMBERS OF REGION CONCERNED DECISIVE ROLE IN ASSIGNMENTS  
TO THAT REGION WILL DEPEND MAINLY ON WHETHER EE'S AND ARABS  
ARE PREPARED AT LEAST NOT TO ACTIVELY OPPOSE ISRAEL'S  
APPLICATION. AT SAME TIME, SINCE A FAVORABLE OUTCOME ON  
THIS ISSUE IS PREREQUISITE TO RESUMPTION OF U.S. PAYMENTS  
TO UNESCO AND RESOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION'S GROWING  
FINANCIAL CRISIS, DEPT. IS SEEKING SUPPORT FOR THE NEW  
PROCEDURE OR, AT MINIMUM, TO DISCOURAGE ACTIVE OPPOSITION,  
WHEREVER THERE IS ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

5. MEMBERS OF ASIAN REGION OF UNESCO THAT VOTED AGAINST  
ISRAEL AT 18TH GC WERE MAINLY MOSLEM: AFGHANISTAN,  
BANGLADESH, CHINA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND PAKISTAN. WE HOPE  
TO INDUCE MANY OF THESE STATES AT LEAST TO ABSTAIN AT 19TH  
GC. MOST ENCOURAGING TARGETS ARE AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES THAT  
ABSTAINED OR WERE "ABSENT" AT 18TH GC VOTE: AUSTRALIA,  
NEPAL, PHILIPPINES, JAPAN, BURMA, INDIA, REPUBLIC OF KOREA,  
SINGAPORE AND SRI LANKA. (NORTH KOREA WAS ALSO  
"ABSENT.") AUSTRALIA, NEPAL AND PHILIPPINES NOT ONLY VOTED  
FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION ADOPTED LAST FALL, WHICH WAS  
CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE FIRST STEP TOWARD REVERSING 18TH  
GC ACTION, BUT WERE AMONG CO-SPONSORS. (JAPAN SUPPORTED  
BOARD'S RESOLUTION BUT WAS NOT CO-SPONSOR, WHEREAS INDIA  
AND CHINA JOINED ARABS IN BEING "ABSENT." NO OTHER ASIAN  
COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED ON CURRENT BOARD.) NEW ZEALAND  
WAS ONLY EA STATE THAT VOTED FOR ISRAEL AT 18TH GC.  
AUSTRALIA CHANGED FROM "YES" IN PRELIMINARY VOTING TO  
ABSTENTION DURING FINAL, ROLL-CALL VOTE.

6. GIVEN CRITICAL, PERHAPS DECISIVE IMPORTANCE OF THIS  
TO FUTURE OF U. S. RELATIONS WITH UNESCO, AS WELL AS OF  
ORGANIZATION ITSELF, DEPT. HOPES ALL HOST GOVERNMENTS WILL  
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SUPPORT ADOPTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD PROCEDURE TO GIVE  
REGIONS DETERMINING VOICE IN THEIR MEMBERSHIP AND WILL VOTE  
FOR ISRAEL'S INCLUSION IN EUROPEAN REGION. ADDRESSEE  
POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE  
APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS, UNDERSCORING GRAVITY OF  
PRESENT CRISIS OF U.S./UNESCO RELATIONS PRECIPITATED BY  
POLITICAL ACTS OF PREVIOUS GC. POSTS SHOULD EXERCISE THEIR  
DISCRETION, IN RELATION TO SPECIAL, LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES,  
AS WELL AS IN LIGHT OF HOST GOVERNMENT'S VOTING RECORD ON  
THIS ISSUE, IN STRESSING FOLLOWING POINTS :

(A) ISRAEL'S ASSIGNMENT TO EUROPEAN REGION WOULD NULLIFY  
ONE OF 18TH GC'S MOST CLEARLY POLITICAL ACTS DIRECTED  
AGAINST ISRAEL AND WOULD CONSTITUTE AN ESSENTIAL STEP  
TOWARD RE-ESTABLISHING VIABLE BASIS FOR A FULL AND ACTIVE

U.S. PRESENCE IN UNESCO, INCLUDING PAYMENT OF ASSESSMENTS.

(B) CONTINUED EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM EUROPEAN REGION, OR ANY ADDITIONAL ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIONS, WOULD BE CERTAIN TO RESULT IN CONGRESS CONTINUING TO WITHHOLD FUNDS, PROLONGING UNESCO'S SERIOUS FINANCIAL PLIGHT, JEOPARDIZING U.S. PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO AND UNDERMINING NOT ONLY UNESCO BUT, IN BROADER SENSE, UN ITSELF.

(C) IT IS CLEARLY NOT IN UNESCO'S INTEREST -- OR IN INTEREST OF ITS NON-COMMUNIST MEMBERS -- TO HAVE THE U.S. LEAVE UNESCO, CREATING A VOID WHICH SOVIETS WILL BE TEMPTED TO EXPLOIT AND SEEK TO FILL.

(D) THERE IS REAL DANGER THAT OPPOSITION TO ISRAEL'S ASSIGNMENT TO EUROPEAN REGION COULD SERIOUSLY DIVIDE 19TH GC TO THE GREAT DISPLEASURE OF ALL THOSE MEMBERS (ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA AND OTHER PARTS OF THIRD WORLD) THAT ARE ANXIOUS TO SUPPORT DG M'BOW (FIRST BLACK AFRICAN TO HEAD A MAJOR UN AGENCY) AND MAKE THIS GC, THE FIRST TO BE HELD IN AFRICA, A SUCCESS.

7. PLEASE REPORT RESULTS ASAP TO DEPT. AND U.S. PERM DEL TO UNESCO. ROBINSON

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